



**NEWS  
RELEASE**



United States  
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service  
Salmon - Challis National Forest  
1206 South Challis St.  
Salmon, Idaho 83467

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**Salmon-Challis National Forest – Fire Update**

**North Fork, Idaho** – The Comet Fire, which started on Tuesday, July 26, continues to burn; slowly progressing in chunks of steep and inaccessible terrain northward. Last night an aircraft equipped with thermal imaging measured the fire at 356 acres. The cameras can detect hotspots and areas of heat through smoke, darkness and tree cover, and provides for more accurate mapping of the fire's perimeter.

Resources currently available on-site to Incident Commander (IC) Wade McPhetridge include: four helicopters, air attack, seven engines with crew, one Type II initial attack 22 person crew, one Type 1 hotshot 20 person crew, four heli-rappellers, and four smokejumpers.

An emergency area closure is in effect for the area surrounding the Comet Fire, yet all the main roads in the area remain open. The complete area closure can be viewed on InciWeb here <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/maps/4894/>.

Travelers in the Highway 93 and Salmon River corridor are asked to proceed through the fire activity area without stopping. Please do not park in the pull-outs between the highway and the river where helicopters are dipping water. If you park there they cannot dip there. If you are floating the river in this area please stay clear of dipping operations for your own safety.

**Roaring Fire** - The Roaring Fire, also started on Tuesday, July 26 by the same storm passage as the Comet Fire, is burning in a remote part of the Frank Church - River of No Return wilderness on the ridge between Roaring and Goat Creeks above the confluence of the Middle Fork Salmon and Salmon Rivers. Estimated to be 75 – 100 acres and expected to continue to grow in size, it is burning in higher elevation timber on the ridge. The fire is located adjacent to the 2014 Goat Fire and being managed to allow fire to play its natural role in wilderness.

##End##